

Growing by... & Leaps & Bounds

Martha Jones School - Westwood, Mass.

Issue 15 - Apr. 10, 2019

[Westwood Public Schools](#) | [Martha Jones School](#) | [Martha Jones PTO](#)



Important Dates

Mon. - Fri., Apr 15 - 19	April School Vacation NO SCHOOL
Mon., Apr. 22	Gr. 3 Enrichment - Colonial Trades Classroom Visit
Wed., Apr. 24	Early release: Dismissal at 11:50am
Thu., Apr. 25	Gr. K Enrichment - MOS Classroom Visit: Bridges
Fri., Apr. 26	SPIRIT DAY
Mon. & Tue., Apr. 29 & 30	Gr. 5 ELA MCAS
Wed., May 1	Student Council 8AM
Wed. & Thu., May 1 & 2	Gr. 4 ELA MCAS
Fri., May 3	PMC Presentation - lunchtime
Tue., May 7	PTO Meeting, 7PM, MJ Library ----- 5th Grade Parent Night, 6:30PM, TMS
Wed., May 8	Early release: Dismissal at 11:50am
Thu. & Fri., May 9 & 10	Gr. 5 Math MCAS
Thu., May 9	Gr. 4 & 5 Band Concert - 7PM, WHS

A complete list of upcoming dates is available [online](#).

Message from the Principal

Math Meet Winners! Congratulations to our 3rd and 4th Grade Math League Teams on Their 1st Place Finishes at the Math League Meet. Way to Go MJ!

The 3rd-grade team includes - Katherine Santos, Molly Shea, Caleb Fengler, Cooper Morrison, Nile Dalal, Sam Kline, Luke Szigety, Maddie Kline, Carolyn Schultz, Adelyn Smith, and missing from the picture: Reese Lipton, and Mikey Murphy, Alex Resha, and Rhea Sharma.



The 4th-grade team includes - Jacob Cicerchia, Flynn Hall, Michael Qiao, Sophia Grasso, Cara Sullivan, Maggie Viano, and missing from the picture: Madisyn Travers, Drew Matthews, and Lucas Rizzi.



While our 5th-grade team didn't win the Math Meet they did come in 4th place. They should be proud of their efforts. The 5th-grade team includes -

Avik Sattiraju, Ansh Sattiraju, James D'Addio, Hannah Lassen, Elle Jonic, Maggie Mullin, and missing from the picture: Dylan Kaplan, Brady Lipton, and Owen Rezek.



MJ & District News

Class Placement - In May, teachers, special educators, specialists, the school psychologist, and I will begin the process of class placement for the 2019-2020 school year. We review information about each child's academic, social, and personal characteristics and use that information when making placement decisions. Our primary goal is to develop well-balanced classrooms and assign each child to a classroom in which he or she can develop academically and socially. I am confident that all of our teachers provide students with wonderful learning opportunities. If you have specific information about your child's learning needs that you would like us to consider during the process, please email me that information **by April 30th**. Only information provided to me, in writing, will be considered. Conversations with teachers during conferences, requests from previous years, and information from prior conversations are difficult to keep track of and not considered in the placement process. Please note that letters and emails are not kept from previous years since children change and grow and we make decisions based on current information. I will copy all letters and emails I receive and distribute them to the placement team members for consideration. If you are the parent of multiples (twins, triplets, etc.), you may specify whether you want your children placed in the same class or different classes. Please don't assume we know this information, if you have a preference for together or separate for your twin/triplet placement, let us know. **Westwood Public Schools does not allow parents to request their children's teachers; therefore, requests for specific teachers will not be accepted or considered. Specific requests to have a teacher will not be honored and will result in your child not being placed in the requested class.** Sometimes, parents assume that if one of their children had a teacher, the other child will automatically have that same teacher. This is not true. Previous family placements are not considered in the placement process. All class placements are final. Please contact me if you have any questions about the process.

Mariachi Dancers - A grant from the Foundation for Westwood Education

The only all-female Mariachi Band in Boston performed for students, teachers, and seniors from Foxhill Village at the Martha Jones School last week. They not only performed, but they had the students (and

teachers) up and dancing. It was an exciting show and a few students even got to take center stage!



Spirit Day - April 26th

On Friday, April 26th we will be having "Crazy Day". Wear the craziest outfit you can come up with! You can wear shorts with a suit jacket, style your hair in a wild way, wear two different colored socks and shoes, or wear all of your clothes inside out. Try to make your outfit as crazy as you can!

The idea is to have fun and show your school spirit. We look forward to seeing how wild Martha Jones students can look on "Crazy Day".

Classroom Happenings

News from 5P (Mr. Parkhurst)



Students in Mr. Parkhurst's 5th grade class are wrapping up a space science unit. Students started by researching and explaining why we experience day and night. They used flashlights to simulate sunrise



and sunset. They made observations about how shadows change in direction and size throughout the day. Students also learned about why we experience seasons. We discussed the tilt of the earth and the revolution of earth around the sun. We set up a lamp, without a shade, in the center of the room. This light was used as the sun. Students then revolved around the sun with small globes. As they moved, they were asked to show the position of the earth during each season.



News from 2H (Ms. Hartwell)



2H is learning about Properties and States of Matter! Matter is all around us. The three states of matter we explore are solid, liquid, and gas. One area of which we focused on was the properties of Solids. In a solid, the molecules are packed together. We explored various solids and came up with a list of physical properties. Solids have mass and a defined shape, solids can be hard and can be soft, solids have a texture and may have a color, solids can be flexible or they



can not be flexible, and materials are varied in solids. One of our class Do's in our science unit was to further explore solids by making a "Monster" for a fictitious Toy Company. The children worked together in small groups planning and creating a monster that fit specific criteria. They had twenty dollars to spend on the materials and had to spend it wisely. After creating their monster, the small groups had to present their monster to the class and convince the group their Monster toy was fun to play with. The project was thumbs up fun, and a great learning experience.



News from 1D (Mrs. Dunn)

Mrs. Dunn's first grade class is beginning a unit called, "Readers Meet the Characters in Our Books." During read-alouds, guided reading groups, and independent reading, students have been learning to pay close attention to a character's actions, thoughts, and feelings to consider, "What kind of person is this?" They are working on supporting their inferences about the character using evidence from the text and the illustrations. Students will also think about whether they can see a pattern in the way a character is acting and will look for places where a character changes in some way, again supporting their thinking with evidence from the book. Analyzing a character so deeply improves students'

comprehension of texts because they are able to make more meaningful predictions, connections and inferences. Students are also better able to determine the important lessons that characters learn or the central message of a story. Just as important, students' enjoyment of texts increases as they begin to feel like they know a character like they know a friend.

News from KM (Mrs. McDonough)

In KM students have been investigating number composition and compensation by changing addends with a constant total. This was all explored within the story context of 8 kids at a sleepover party with bunk beds. We read [The Sleepover](#) by Catherine Fosnot and learned about how Sarah invited 7 friends to sleepover on her new bunkbeds. After hearing which students have bunkbeds and how they have slept on them at various places, we read that the 8 kids in the story started out the night with 4 on the top bunk and 4 on the bottom bunk. Then, they asked Aunt Kate to go get them some popcorn. When she returns, she is surprised to see that there are only 3 kids on the top bunk and she thinks she has lost a child! The students laughed at



this part and quickly realized that they had played a trick on Aunt Kate and really one kid just went down to the bottom bunk--so now there are 5 kids there, not 4. The kids at the sleepover then ask Aunt Kate for some juice and they play the trick on her again--now there are only 2 on the top bunk but one more on the bottom! And so the story goes. The important thing to emphasize in the story is that really no kids were ever missing; there were always 8 but their position changed. The students represented each situation with a math tool called the [Rekenrek](#) or math rack. This is handy for the story because the tool already has 2 rods so it was easy to show students on the top and bottom of the "bunk". We then asked students to think of other ways the kids could be arranged on the bunks and then had them attach an equation to their work. Ask your child to tell you about the story and what addends of 8 they did!

INFERRING CHARACTER TRAITS from a Character's Action
Book Title: *Tales of the Wolf of the World* by Kevin Jones

Action (What did the character do in the story?)	Inferred Character Trait
she sang lullabies to her not born brother	nice
she's saying mean words to the baby	mean, nobby
she stood up for her brother	loving

Character Traits

Positive Traits	Negative Traits
funny	naughty
imaginative	shy
determined	mean
creative	old-fashioned
silly	hard-working
independent	disrespectful
nice	mean
happy	kind
generous	caring



News from Literacy (Ms. Wyler)



During our Writers' Workshops, students across the grade levels have been learning about writing for an audience. Even in our youngest grades, students are thinking about the intended audience for their writing and how they might adjust their writing depending on who is reading it. In kindergarten, as the children wrote their "How To" books, they began to think about their audience in various ways. They learned to address their readers directly by using the word "you" and considered what additional directions or steps were needed to explain a process to an audience that

was unfamiliar with their topic. The students also thought about who may be interested in reading their books and where that audience might be located. As the children finished their How-To books, they displayed them around the school in locations where their audience would find them the most useful. For example, books about painting pictures were hung outside the art room, directions about sports games were displayed outside the gym or by the recess doors, while other books were hung by the cafeteria or in pretend play areas. The children did a great job and wrote some very informative books!



Talent for A Cause - Another amazing show put on by our terrific students. A special thanks to Kris McDonough,



Karen McDonald, Lynne McDonnell, Katelyn Pickering, and Deana Saada-Smith for their hard work and to all the parents who helped

out with the sound system, props, costumes, etc. I loved the show and one of the best parts of Talent for A Cause is that approximately \$2000. was raised for the Westwood Community Chest.



PTO News

MJ PTO BOARD POSITIONS OPEN

We will be electing an incoming treasurer to shadow for the 2019/2020 school year and take over for the following year. If you'd like to run for the MJ PTO treasurer, please let us know!

MARTHA JONES PTO FACEBOOK GROUP

Did you know Martha Jones PTO has its own Facebook group page? Join the Facebook group to get the latest PTO news and updates delivered right to your news feed! [Click here to join!](#)

PTO CONTACT FOR EVENTS, NOTICES:

If you have an event or notice for our PTO update, please email it to PTO Co-Secretary Erica Howe at erica.gregg.howe@gmail.com

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Westwood SEPAC

SPECIAL EDUCATION PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL



Understanding Executive Functioning Impact at Home and in School

Thursday, April 25, 2019
7:00 PM -9:00 PM

Speaker: Donna Kincaid M. Ed.
Asst. Director of The Institute for Learning
and Development



This presentation will provide parents with a clear understanding of the term “executive function” and how executive function weaknesses affect children in school and at home. Parents will also learn how anxiety can affect one’s ability to plan, organize and complete tasks (e.g. homework and chores) and typical behaviors that often result. Parents will leave with specific strategies to help their children (and themselves) to decrease anxiety and increase productivity.

Location: Westwood High School, 220 Nahatan Street
Park in the front horseshoe parking lot off Nahatan Street. Go through the doors marked “District Administration”. Once inside follow signage to Professional Development Room.

[Institute for Learning and Development](#)



Join our closed Facebook Group: [Westwood SEPAC-Special Education Parent Advisory Council](#)

To volunteer, questions, or submit ideas [email: westwoodsepac@gmail.com](mailto:westwoodsepac@gmail.com)

Board: Megan Brenk & Meggan Flaherty, Co-chairs • Angela Pomarole & Aravind Mowa, Co-Secretaries •
Kelly Anderson & Jennifer Ellis, Co-Treasurers

Westwood SEPAC www.westwoodsepac.org